tries except Pakistan. Trade preferences exchanged with Nepal and Bhutan under special arrangements whereas trade with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives is conducted on MFN basis. Trade between India and Pakistan is taking place in accordance with the Import-Export Policy of the two countries. Pakistan is following a restrictive Trade Policy regarding imports from India whereas India is allowing imports from Pakistan on MFN basis.

(b) and (c) The SAARC Member countries have been meeting periodically to discuss possibilities of strengthening Inter-State Trade relations. An agreement has been signed at the Dhaka Summit on 11th April, 1993 under which it has been agreed in principle, that steps will be taken by the Member States to conduct trade among themselves on the basis of Preferential Trading Arrangement.

Identification of Land For Shrimp and Fish Culture

2130. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether M. P. E. D. A. has identified large area of land in Andhra Pradesh which is suitable for shrimp and fish culture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) According to MPEDA about 1.5 lakh hectares of brackishwater area is estimated to be suitable for acquaculture in Andhra Pradesh.

Contribution of Andhra Pradesh Towards Export of Marine Products

2131. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh contributes overwhelmingly towards marine products exports, including marine catch and aquaculture products;

(b) the details of the contribution of Andhra Pradesh towards exports in this sector;

(c) whether it would be more rational to shift the headquarter of MPEDA to some suitable location in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) the steps being taken in this regard; and

(e) the number of employees engaged in Cochin office of MPEDA presently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Export details are not compiled State-wise. However, the details of units in Andhra Pradesh are being collected from MPEDA and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No Sir. MPEDA with its Headquarters at Cochin is functioning satisfactorily. MPEDA's regional and sub-regional offices located in different coastal States are providing the developmental services and assistance to entrepreneurs of that region.

(d) Does not arise;

(e) MPEDA Headquarters at Cochin employs 192 persons.

Removal of Difficulties Faced by Exporters

2132. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to take steps to remove all difficulties faced by exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when exporters would be made free from all impediments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Government have taken several steps to remove the difficulties faced by exporters which include replacement of dual exchange rate system with a unified market determined exchange rate, revision of Export-Import Policy for 1992-97 giving particular attention to simplification and streamlining of policy and procedures, substantial reduction in import licensing and other discretionary controls, reduction of peak import tariff levels from 150% to 85%, reduction in the interest rate on rupee export credit, giving direc